



Take Away Devotion

Thursday, September 28

This devotion may be used as individuals, but if you have come with others from your congregation, we encourage you to make time to do this together. You could also do this devotion with your roommate or a friend.

Today we began exploring and talking about being equipped to be along-siders. What about this makes you nervous? What excites you?

Theme Verse: Romans 1:8-12

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

This letter was to encourage the Roman Christians to continue to share their faith as we are being heard around the world. Paul begins his letter to the Romans (after his customary introduction of himself) by saying that he gives thanks to God for the recipients of this letter. Why does he say he is thankful?

Paul desires to visit them in Rome. According to verse 11, why did he want to go? What was the desired outcome? (vs. 12)



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Paul's goal wasn't just about these Roman Christians. He had a bigger goal. According to verse 13, in what two "fields" did he hope to reap a harvest? What is the relationship between these two "fields"?

What could we do during our time together to encourage each other to live daily as "along-siders"?

Considering what God has done for you, what goals do you have for the next two days? How might your goals be influenced by Paul's words to the Romans?

The conference organizers have been praying for you. We thank God for you. We are glad that we have come together and pray that this conference will be a time that we can impart a gift that will strengthen you. We also hope that you will have the opportunity to mutually encourage the other conference goers. As you are blessed over the next two days, how can you encourage one other to take this home and continue to live as an "along-sider" in your relationships?

Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you that we have been able to come together as brothers and sisters in Christ. We praise you for what you have done and continue to do in our churches and schools. Bless our time together, that we would be encouraged in the roles in which we serve. Grow our vision, understanding, and faith through Your Word and the people who share it. Bless the fellowship that we share, the worship that we offer, and the work that we do. May everything equip and empower us to joyfully and effectively share the love of Jesus. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(vers. 9/1)